

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Smiths help Argentines train for "race of life"

By Mary E. Speidel

NEUQUEN, Argentina (BP) — Steve Smith squints in the midday sunlight as he pedals his Trek road bike around the skating track.

Two champion roller skaters trail closely behind him. Their thigh muscles bulge as they pick up speed on their skates. After several laps, the skaters switch places. Smith stays in front of them, breaking the force of the wind.

The athletes are two of Argentina's best: Jose Luis Lozano, five-time gold medalist in the 1987 Pan-American Games, and Claudio Iurchur, second among speed roller skaters in Argentina. They're training for a national skating race in March. Smith sometimes joins them for workouts in Neuquen, Argentina.

Today Smith wears black biking shorts with a pink stripe down each leg. A silk-screened watermelon decorates the front of his green T-shirt. He hardly looks the part of a Southern Baptist missionary.

But he's not your traditional missionary. Neither is his wife, Vidonia.

The Smiths, from Hattiesburg and White Oak, Miss., respectively, came to Neuquen in 1991 to help First Baptist Church develop a sports ministry. He already had served three and a half years in general evangelism in San Juan, Argentina. Although the couple enjoyed that role, they dreamed of one day using interests in sports, fitness, and nutrition on the mission field.

"But we weren't even looking for that in San Juan; we were happy there," Smith recalled. Completely out of the blue, they got a phone call from Lozano on April 11,

1990, Mrs. Smith's birthday.

The professional skater, a Baptist, had heard of the Smiths from Leon White, a former Southern Baptist missionary in Argentina. Lozano dreamed of starting an evangelistic sports center in his hometown of Neuquen. When he

told White about his desire, the missionary put him in touch with Smith.

Lozano already was using his skating talent in evangelism. At age 20 he had accepted Christ as Savior at First Baptist Church of Neuquen. Five months later he

won the world championships in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

From then on he has spoken openly about his faith through media interviews and contact with other athletes. Besides the five medals from the 1987 Pan-American Games in Indianapolis,

Lozano holds 53 national and 12 South American titles in speed roller skating.

But in addition to skating, Lozano began to feel God was calling him to help create a broader sports ministry through his church. First Baptist supported the idea, and Lozano started looking for people to help him.

Mrs. Smith recalled Lozano's first conversation with her and her husband: "He said, 'We want somebody who will be willing to put on the short pants with us, someone who will get out there with us.'"

For the Smiths, the phone call "was like God was coming down out of heaven and saying, 'Hey, this is what you always wanted.' We never imagined that we would have the opportunity to do something like this," Smith said.

The missionaries are living out that dream in Neuquen, a "sports-crazy" city, Smith said. About 60% of its 200,000 residents are under age 15. About 80% of young people Smith surveyed said they played sports.

To reach them and other sports fans in the community, the Smiths have built a team of Baptists who lead the Christian Sports Foundation. The foundation is a ministry of First Church, which operates several community ministries such as a school and health-care outreach and ambulance services.

Smith has trained about 16 Baptist lay people in leading evangelistic sports clinics. The volunteers conduct regular clinics for young people in a variety of sports, including Neuquen's most popular sports of volleyball and skating.

Speidel writes for FMB.



**EVANGELISTIC GYM** — Southern Baptist sports missionary Steve Smith (far left) and Argentine Baptists Ruben Araya (far right) and Jose Luis Lozano (second from right) examine sections of a Baptist gymnasium under construction near Neuquen, Argentina. Also shown is Libero Canziani, owner of the metal-works plant where the structure is being built. They will transport the gym in pieces to Neuquen,

where it will be installed and used as an evangelistic outreach of First Baptist Church. Araya, an engineer, is a consultant on the project, partly funded by the Southern Baptist Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. Lozano, a world champion (speed) roller skater, said he has long dreamed of an evangelistic sports center in his hometown of Neuquen. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

### FamilyFest conferences

NASHVILLE — Families wishing to combine worship with vacation can attend one of two FamilyFest conferences being held this summer.

FamilyFest, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be held at Shangri-La Resort on Grand Lake near Afton, Okla., July 5-7, and at the Holiday Inn Resort Complex in Gatlinburg, Tenn., July 26-28, according to event coordinator Susan Lanford.

FamilyFest is a family enrichment conference for single to multi-generational families who wish to spend their vacation time together in worship, Bible study, drama, music, enrichment activities, recreation, and in fellowship with other Christian families, Lanford said.

Registration information can be obtained by writing: FamilyFest, Baptist Sunday School Board, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203, or calling, (615) 251-2277. Discounts for early registration and four or more family groups registering together are available.

### Islamic study center at SBTS

WAKE FOREST, NC — Southeastern Seminary is developing an Islamic study center as a major portion of its Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies.

"We recognize there haven't been any major steps in providing an Islamic study center in Southern Baptist life," said President Paige Patterson. "We intend to work in the direction of providing an effective witness to Muslims."

Patterson has a very personal interest in Islam and the Arabic world because he grew up with an Arabic brother, adopted by his parents.

Patterson credits the influence of Southeastern professor George Braswell for this emphasis on Islam. Braswell is professor of world missions at Southeastern and was the first Southern Baptist representative to work in Iran.

Braswell added, "Muslims do not appreciate and cannot tolerate that Christians have accepted Jesus as the divine Son of God or that he is God in the flesh. They do not appreciate and cannot tolerate the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross. They deny the atonement."

### Briefly...

#### Peru

CAJAMARCA, Peru — Two Peruvian engineers made public professions of faith in Christ after helping to build a road funded by a Baptist development project in Peru, reported Southern Baptist missionary Joy Johnson. The men worked closely with Johnson's husband, Larry, in constructing the Yanacancha Road for Quechua people near Cajamarca. The project was part of a development program financed primarily by Foreign Mission Board human needs funds.

#### Somalia

\* RICHMOND, Va. — The Somalia Coalition for Action plans to thank the Foreign Mission Board formally for its help in supporting peace talks between warring Somali clans. Ali Mohamed Aden, a leader of the coalition, asked to meet in early February with Jim Houser, associate area director of FMB work in southern and eastern Africa, to express appreciation for the board's support in the talks. The board transported several coalition members to Nairobi, Kenya, in December where they met with clan representatives. This meeting led to another in Syria, Va., that produced a reconciliation agreement.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## On the mainline

We need to commend our foreign and home missionaries. In spite of the "tempest in a teapot" type discussions in the convention they have remained faithful to the task. Missionaries and the Baptists with whom they work made record advances in missions overseas this past year. They moved across the 3 million mark in membership, began 1,606 new churches and baptized a record 251,901 new believers.

Volunteers from our churches assisted in many crusades, revival meetings and Bible classes. There are 24,000 preaching points now, an increase of 1,153, in the past year. Many of these will grow into strong churches, others will flourish for a season and die. This far surpasses the SBC level of outreach in America. Jim Slack, consultant with the Foreign Mission Board, explained, "In the USA, 75% of all new churches are started by churches seven years of age and under - the older the churches get, the less willing they move out on the fron-

tiers of growth."

Watching one day in a railroad switch yard, I noted the box cars being loaded and then connected to a long freight train for their destination. Some of the freight was perishable, much of it vital to our economy, and energy was expended to get it moving. A string of empty boxcars was shunted off to a side track and was by-passed. They carried no freight, had no destination, and rusted away in a busy freight yard.

It is not the desire of our SBC leadership to rust away on the side track. The main line is open but we seem to have trouble getting up steam. Great plans are announced, mighty whistles blow, and we move to another side track. No one desires this. All of us would like to get on the main track and move toward our destination. J.B. Gambrell, one-time editor of the Baptist Record, said, "A pack of dogs will not fight among themselves when chasing something big, but shut up

in a pen with nothing to do — it's there they fight among themselves."

We have something big before us. Our nation is turning its back on God and we must be in the battle. The vast world mission opportunities are still there. The SBC, CBF, WMU, and 99% of Baptists are not contented to rust away on the side track. Let it not be said of us as it was of "the children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle" (Psalm 78:9).

Let us lay aside anger, wrath, and malice, shake free of petty bickering, leave the peripheral areas, and get to the main track.

We have the means, the methods, and prayerfully the dedication but are wavering on the "first love." The candlestick is still in our hands but it can be quickly removed. I thank God for the leadership of our convention trying to move us on. We've camped in this wilderness long enough.

## IN THE STREAM OF LIFE



## Hobbs urges leaders to share power, hold faction summit

OKLAHOMA CITY (ABP) — The lingering controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention would end if the SBC's conservative leaders would fulfill their constitutional obligation to share power with their moderate brethren, says Baptist elder statesman Herschel Hobbs.

Hobbs, a retired pastor and former SBC president, called for leaders of the SBC's two factions to come to the convention's annual June meeting in Houston with a plan to work together and end the bitter dispute that has dominated the 15 million-member denomination for 14 years.

However, leaders on both sides of the controversy said they are skeptical a summit of the factions will produce meaningful results.

"I do not agree that a summit of leaders is the answer for resolution of differences," said Morris Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

"I would do it (but) I see no point in it," said Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Hobbs made his remarks in an eight-page commentary titled *Food for Thought*, which he released recently to Baptist news media.

Hobbs said the conservative leaders elected to SBC office since 1979 are bound to abide by the recommendations of the 1987

Peace Committee, which among other things "called for balanced committees and boards" to conduct convention business.

Critics say those leaders have used their authority to exclude from leadership all those not committed to the conservative movement, which has held sway in the SBC since 1979.

"We have the polity to end this controversy," Hobbs wrote. "But we must give it a chance to work!"

Hobbs served on the Peace Committee, which in 1987 concluded its two-year study of the SBC controversy by calling for inclusion of all factions in leadership positions,

an end to denominational politicking, and the hiring of more conservatives at SBC agencies.

Hobbs noted the committee's report was approved by an estimated 97% of Southern Baptists voting at the SBC's annual meeting in 1987.

"The elected officers are to act in accord with convention action," Hobbs wrote. "They are not free to act contrary to it, no matter how worthy their motives. The convention has called for balanced committees and boards. In keeping with our polity, the elected officers should act accordingly."

"If that were done, the Coopera-

tive Baptist Fellowship would have no valid reason to exist. Judging by their own statements, I believe that that organization would vanish like smoke in a strong wind."

The Fellowship, a two-year-old organization of moderate Southern Baptists opposed to the tactics of conservative leaders, has drawn criticism for

allowing churches to direct their contributions away from conservative-controlled SBC agencies or toward the Fellowship's own programs.

Chapman recently called on the Fellowship to leave the convention rather than to continue claiming to be Southern Baptists. In response to Hobbs' latest proposal, Chapman told Associated Baptist Press that Southern Baptists can solve their differences when they "catch a fresh vision of the Great Commission. When we do that, no uncooperative individuals will be able to hold us back."

Concerning Hobbs' suggestion that the SBC officers may have violated the SBC constitution in their leadership appointments, Chapman, a former SBC president

himself, said, "I have every confidence that the presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention have approached this responsibility with a strong sense of what is best for the SBC and its witness for Christ to the world."

**"I am just one Southern Baptist who has and does pray for a return of our historic Baptist position — unity in diversity."**  
— Herschel Hobbs

The Fellowship's Sherman, who also served on the Peace Committee, said Hobbs' acknowledgment that recent SBC

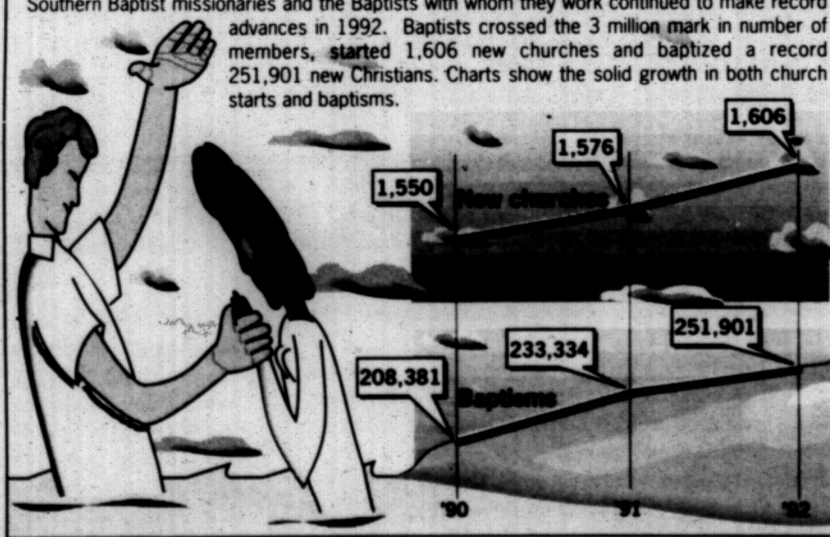
presidents abused their power "is a little late coming." Sherman said the venerable pastor, while on the committee, didn't complain when conservatives used both the presidential appointments and the Peace Committee process for their own political ends.

"What makes him think they are going to act different now than they acted then?" Sherman asked. "I think he is asking them to give something away that they won in political combat, and they are not going to give it away."

When Chapman first suggested the Fellowship leave the SBC, Hobbs was quoted as saying his suggestion had some merit. However, Hobbs told ABP Feb. 11 he has not given up on reconciliation. (See HOBBS on page 8)

## Missionaries report 1992 gains overseas

Southern Baptist missionaries and the Baptists with whom they work continued to make record advances in 1992. Baptists crossed the 3 million mark in number of members, started 1,606 new churches and baptized a record 251,901 new Christians. Charts show the solid growth in both church starts and baptisms.



(BP) GRAPHIC By Marty Croll

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# Exec. Comm. tackles WMU, BJC, abortion

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee registered concerns for the SBC's future relationship with its Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary during its Feb. 22-24 meeting in Nashville.

The committee also approved an end to a heated dispute with the Baptist Joint Committee for Public Affairs over \$300,000 in SBC funds originally set aside for a Baptist building in Washington.

Additionally approved were a recommendation to the Southern Baptist Convention for the 1993-94 SBC Program Allocation Budget; a new publication, *SBC Life*, to replace *The Baptist Program*; a request to the Annuity Board to divest itself of stocks of corporate contributors to Planned Parenthood; and a study of "the future of theological education in Southern Baptist life."

The Executive Committee voiced "deep concern" in a resolution addressing changes approved by WMU's executive board in January to broaden the auxiliary's scope of work with other Baptist groups and Christian bodies, such as producing missions education materials "at their request." (See resolution on page 6.)

While giving high praise to WMU's longstanding promotion of SBC missions offerings, its prayer efforts for missionaries, and its missions education programs, the Executive Committee resolution called on WMU to "make clear its singular cooperation" with the SBC and its Foreign and Home Mission Boards.

Responding to questions from an Executive Committee member, national WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said WMU is not planning to promote other mission offerings, such as one initiated by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a two-year-old organization of Baptist moderates, nor will WMU become a missionary-sending organization.

"We appreciate the affirmation expressed by the SBC Executive Committee for WMU," O'Brien said after the meeting. "The WMU executive board next meets in June in conjunction with the WMU annual meeting and the Southern Baptist Convention. This would be the earliest time this resolution could be considered by our board."

In a split vote over an agreement hammered out between Executive Committee and Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs officials and legal counsel, the Executive Committee agreed to give the BJC \$100,000 from its operating reserve — \$25,000 each of the next four years — to settle a dispute over a \$300,000 fund established in 1966 for a Baptist building in Washington.

The agreement calls for both sides to "put to rest" the issue, which arose in 1991 when the BJC claimed the \$300,000 and SBC messengers in 1992 in Indianapolis instead approved control of the fund by the Executive Committee.

A number of Executive Committee members opposed the agreement on the grounds it was a reac-

tion to a threatened lawsuit by the BJC — and that it's "flatly wrong" to submit to threats, as one member put it. Both sides cited biblical passages in debating the proposed agreement before it was approved by a 2-1 or wider margin in a show of hands.

Oliver S. Thomas, BJC legal counsel, confirmed the BJC's acceptance in a Feb. 16 letter to SBC legal counsel James P. Guenther: "We have polled the members of our Executive Committee, and they are willing to accept a cash payment in the amount of \$100,000 to settle the dispute."

A 1993-94 SBC Program Allocation Budget of \$138,234,735 was approved for recommendation to the SBC annual meeting June 15-17 in Houston. The Executive Committee's recommendation follows its 1989 decision to recommend a basic budget no larger than receipts of the last fiscal year of record, which in this case was 1991-92.

The recommendation is \$1,965,660 less than this year's budget, or a 1.4% decrease.

Also approved was the 1991-92 audit of the Executive Committee. In the report of the 1991-92 SBC Operating Budget administered by the Executive Committee, net revenues over expenditures for the fiscal year totaled \$252,451, compared to \$287,373 in 1990-91. That leaves the operating budget fund reserve with a balance of \$568,397 as of Sept. 30, 1992.

With *SBC Life*, a full-color, newspaper-like publication, *The Baptist Program* — published by the Executive Committee since 1925 — will be phased out after its September edition. *SBC Life* will be launched with a special edition for the SBC annual meeting in Houston, then begin regular publication in October. Like *The Baptist Program*, *SBC Life* will be published 10 times a year.

*SBC Life*'s editor will be Mark Coppenger, Executive Committee vice president for convention relations.

"While *The Baptist Program* was designed primarily for ministers and other denominational professionals," Coppenger told Baptist Press, "*SBC Life* should be engaging to laypersons as well. There's so much Christian vitality in the Southern Baptist Convention that the parade of pictures and information should be exhilarating."

After unanimously approving the new publication, Executive Committee members voted to decline action on a motion referred from the SBC's 1992 meeting to publish a monthly edition of Baptist Press.

Turning to the abortion issue, the Executive Committee voted to request the Annuity Board "identify any company in its portfolio that is contributing to Planned Parenthood or any other provider or advocate of legal abortion" and "begin a process of divesting itself" of those stocks.

J.C. Mitchell, a Winter Park, Fla., pastor and an advocate of the divesting, said in an interview information available from pro-life

research arms indicates the Annuity Board may have investments in various companies that contribute to Planned Parenthood.

Mitchell cited news accounts that Planned Parenthood receives \$7 million annually from corporate contributors.

In brief debate of the proposal, Executive Committee member William Hall of San Clemente, Calif., advocated stockholder actions as more effective in spurring companies to discontinue Planned Parenthood contributions. Selling such stocks, he said, "seems like a bite without any teeth."

The divesting request to the

Annuity Board, however, passed with only minimal opposition.

Responding in behalf of the Annuity Board, Thomas E. Miller Jr., senior vice president for public relations, told Baptist Press the matter would be presented to the agency's trustees.

The Annuity Board currently is following through on a trustee-initiated Kmart shareholder action to instruct the company to eliminate from its Waldenbooks subsidiary publications "largely devoted to the description of sexual encounters or that has a graphic depiction of exploitative sex and/or gratuitous violence."

Joining efforts to urge President

Bill Clinton to end U.S. diplomatic relations with the Vatican, the Executive Committee passed a resolution stating such ties are "clearly a violation" of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment prohibition against laws favoring one religion over another.

On Feb. 15, the SBC Christian Life Commission, the National Association of Evangelicals, and three other denominations sent a formal letter to Clinton urging him to rescind diplomatic relations and exchange of ambassadors President Reagan established with the Vatican in 1984.

In approving an in-depth study (See **EXECUTIVE** on page 8)

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### WMU chief laments "double standard" aimed at auxiliary

By Karen Owen

OWENSBORO, Ky. (ABP) — Don't hold the Southern Baptist women's auxiliary to a double standard, Dellanna O'Brien appealed to conservative Baptists Feb. 21.

O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, spoke at Third Church in Owensboro, Ky., during the Sunday School hour and in morning worship.

Other SBC agencies already are doing what WMU has decided to do, O'Brien said. "My plea is that we also allow WMU that same benefit and privilege."

For example, O'Brien pointed out that the Foreign Mission Board accepts missionaries who attended non-Southern Baptist seminaries and works overseas with "Great Commission Christians" who are not Baptist.

The Baptist Sunday School Board receives 15% of its revenue from the sale of literature to a broader Christian audience, O'Brien said. And the SBC itself provides exhibit space for non-Baptist groups at the denomination's annual convention, she said.

Critics have accused O'Brien's group, the largest Protestant women's organization in the country, of veering from its historic course of supporting Southern Baptist missions and missionaries. An auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, WMU raises approximately \$120 million each year for Southern Baptist missions causes.

Although WMU has decided to work with outside organizations as well as Southern Baptist agencies, "never have we gone back on a

promise," she said.

"WMU members in this church will probably see no change at all," O'Brien said. "The literature used for Acteens, Mission Friends, and other groups will still promote the work of the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board."

WMU has tried not to take sides in the controversy between SBC moderates and conservatives,

O'Brien said, explaining WMU includes women from both camps, as well as the "confused and uncommitted."

Let those who want to get involved in the debate over theological differences do so, she said, but "please allow us to be an umbrella for all Southern Baptists."

Owen is religion writer for the Owensboro MESSENGER-INQUIRER in Owensboro, Ky.



**A SERIOUS DISCUSSION** — WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien listens to Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, following a Feb. 8 dialogue between WMU leaders and Foreign Mission Board trustees. Chapman attended the session. Many questions from FMB trustees at the tense session focused on the WMU executive board's January vote to assist mission groups other than the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission boards. WMU leaders believe they are responding to a changing Southern Baptist scene. But FMB trustees feel the WMU is abandoning the unity of Southern Baptist Convention-sponsored mission efforts in order to aid groups like the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. (BP photo by Sandy King)





**EAGLES SOAR** — Seven churches received Eagle Awards Feb. 23 for utilizing the Growth Spiral program to achieve a net increase of more than 182 people in Sunday School enrollment, with ten or more new teaching units started. Randy Tompkins (left), consultant in the MCB Sunday School department, presented the awards to (from left) Steve Stubblefield, Park Place Church, Brandon; Randy Riley, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; Jerry Smith, First Church, Covington, Louisiana; Gary Shows, Temple Church, Hattiesburg (second award); Rick Ball, First Church, Madison; John Miller, Trinity Church, Southaven; and Jeff Goff, Colonial Hills Church, Southaven (seventh award). Growth Spiral is a planning and evaluation program designed to help churches set goals and monitor progress toward those goals. About 70 churches are currently involved in the program.

## Clarke Committee holds first meeting

By Tim Nicholas

The first meeting of the Clarke Special Committee took place in Newton last week to organize and begin preparations for receiving suggestions concerning the disposition of Clarke College properties.

Chairman Larry Otis of Tupelo convened the group at First Church, Newton, after a tour of the Clarke College campus.

The committee, chosen by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee, has the task of making to the Executive Committee a recommendation for disposition of the buildings and real estate that made up the Clarke campus.

Clarke College closed last year after being operated by Mississippi College trustees for a decade. Trustees cited declining enrollment, declining finances, and loss of accreditation for closure.

The document in which the convention board accepted the properties back from Mississippi College, noted that any future use of the buildings and property, "should not be inconsistent with or hinder the missions, goals and concerns of the Mississippi Baptist Convention." Committee members said they did not believe this precluded secular organizations from being considered.

The Special Committee, which has already heard from several interested parties, indicated it will make its proposal format available in the middle of March from the convention board's business office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. All interested parties will be asked to make their proposals

in the requested format.

In the first draft of the proposal format, interested parties are asked about financial capabilities and method of acquisition, whether it would be rent, lease/purchase, or purchase. Said Otis, "I did not put in there that we would donate it."

Committee members will evaluate proposals in July and possibly make a report in August to the Executive Committee. A report to the convention would come in November. "This is a flexible time frame," said Otis, who said he welcomed questions about the committee. Otis can be reached at 645 Jefferson St., Tupelo, MS 38801.

Mississippi College is preparing a survey of the Clarke land and a quitclaim deed. A quitclaim deed is equivalent to conveying the property "as is."

Committee members noted that since an appraisal could cost \$8-10,000, such would be delayed for the present. A title search was to be contracted on receipt of the quitclaim deed.

Costs of caretaking at Clarke are estimated at \$48,000 per year. Current income from rental of apartments and houses on campus are about \$36,000 per year. That includes rental of the auditorium to the La-Z-Boy furniture company for storage at \$750 per month.

The convention board is providing operating expenses and Special Committee expenses out of the Board Operating Fund with the expectation that outlays would be repaid from any future income from the property.

### Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the Feb. 18 issue of the Baptist Record: Alcorn: Lone Oak; Benton-Tippah: Peoples; Itawamba: Kirkville; Marshall: Mt. Pleasant; Neshoba: New Black Jack; North Delta: FBC, Lambert; Noxubee: Elon; Smith: Salem; and Wayne: Charity.

## Huge choir, exhibit area, tours, program highlight senior event

NASHVILLE — A 7,000-seat choir, a large exhibit area, city bus tours, and a program featuring entertainer Art Linkletter are among big ticket items expected to draw a sea of senior adults to a national convention in Atlanta, a coordinator said.

About 20,000 senior adults are expected to attend the April 26-28 Senior Adult Convention in the new Georgia Dome, located adjacent to the Georgia World Congress Center. Seven thousand of those from 199 churches in 17 states will sit in the choir, according to Jay Johnston, senior adult specialist with the Baptist Sunday School Board and coordinator of the event.

Using a curtained-off half of the Dome's huge floor, the Baptist Book Store will share space with

other exhibitors, including those which demonstrate how senior adult ministries are making a difference in church, community, and family, according to Robert Bedenbaugh, marketing assistant in the SSB's Marketing Services Department.

Bus tours will include such attractions as the Home Mission Board, Stone Mountain Park, the CNN Center, and other Atlanta sites, according to Susan Henderson of Atlanta Arrangements, the company handling tours.

Johnston said the heart of the three-day experience will be the program, which opens with a theme, "Senior adults making a difference through Christ."

Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, will preach on that first of four main topics, Johnston

said. Vocalist Steve Green will present music, while congregational singing will be led by Lyndel Vaught, minister of music at First Church of San Angelo, Texas.

Tuesday morning's theme is "Senior adults making a difference in families," featuring Linkletter; Tuesday evening the theme, "Senior adults making a difference in church," is being led by Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church of Jackson, Miss.

Theme for the closing session Wednesday morning, also led by Pollard, will be "Senior adults making a difference in communities."

The conference registration fee is \$40. Senior adults can register by calling 1-800-489-2012. A packet giving details of hotels and restaurants in the Atlanta area is available by calling the 1-800 number.

## RTVC officials plan restructure

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The Radio and Television Commission outlined the restructuring of its staff Feb. 19 in a meeting with Baptist editors in Fort Worth, Texas.

RTVC President Jack Johnson said the move would result in elimination of several positions and reassignment of others. Johnson said the moves came as a result of the changes made in transmission of ACTS programming in October. ACTS (American Christian Television System) entered into an agreement with VGI, a Denver, Colo.-based cable industry corporation, to provide eight hours of programming on the "Faith and Values Channel." Also on the channel 16 hours daily is the Vision Interfaith Network (VISN).

Johnson reminded the group the ACTS move not only doubled the potential viewing audience but also made possible a reallocation of human and financial resources to much-needed priorities.

Johnson named those priorities as services to churches and convention agencies, audience building, refurbishing of facilities, and replacement of obsolete equipment.

He said the restructuring will change the nature of the network operations division, with it focusing on programming and developing ACTS, the commission's cable network, and FamilyNet, a program service aimed at broadcast television stations. Administration, programming, and traffic will be directed by Vice President Michael

Wright.

The support services function is being assigned to the business services division headed by Jerry Stamps, vice president for business services. The division will include accounting, information services, computer network, insurance, mail service, and the physical plant. Charles Roden, former director of support services, has taken early retirement.

The external relations division under Vice President Doug Dillard will be expanded to include marketing, consulting services, institutional advancement, and the TimeRite advertising agency in addition to public relations, counseling services, direct mail, graphics, and printing. The former development department was closed.

ACTS' move to the Faith and Values Channel and this leaner, more efficient organization, Johnson said, "should enable us to make missions and evangelism the high priority we know Southern Baptists want them to be."

## Eugene I. Farr, minister and educator, dies at 91

Eugene Ijams Farr, 91, a minister and educator, died of pneumonia Monday in Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg.

Services were Feb. 24 at Lakewood Funeral Home, Jackson, with burial in Lakewood Memorial Park.

Farr, a Franklin County native, was ordained a Baptist minister in 1923. During his career he

pastored 28 Mississippi churches. He organized three and constructed the pastors' homes at six others.

He had written histories of Florence, Edwards, and Richland churches and had nearly completed a fourth book about First Church, Clinton.

Farr served on the State Mission Board and Board of Ministerial Education for the Mississippi Baptist Convention and was

librarian for the Mississippi Baptist Historical Library and a trustee of New Orleans Seminary.

Farr and his wife, Arie Porter Farr, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year.

He received bachelor and master of arts degrees from Mississippi College, a doctorate in theology from New Orleans Seminary, and a doctorate in education from the University of Mississippi. He taught in public schools for 10 years and at Clarke Memorial College for six years. He was professor of education at Mississippi College for 17 years.

Farr and his brothers, Edward Farr of Memphis and the late Archie Farr, all alumni of Mississippi College, established the Farr Brothers Loan Fund to help deserving students.

In addition to his wife, other survivors include: daughters Addie Hall of Decatur, Ala. and Nancy Hughes of Hattiesburg; sister, Lilla Farr Worman of Hattiesburg; and seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

## Young seeks nominees

HOUSTON (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Edwin H. Young has asked Southern Baptists to suggest names for the four committees he will appoint.

The SBC bylaws direct the president to appoint the committee on committees, resolutions committee, tellers committee, and credentials committee. Each of these committees involves both laypersons and people in church-related positions.

Forms are available at the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Nashville TN 37203 (615-244-2355). When completed, they should be mailed to Dr. Edwin H. Young, Second Baptist Church, 6400 Woodway, Houston TX 77057.

The deadline is March 21.



# Annuity Board marks anniversary; honors first CEO

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention marked its 75th anniversary at Edgefield Church in Nashville, dedicating a bronze plaque Feb. 21 in memory of the board's first chief executive officer.

The Annuity Board provides a wide range of products and services to churches, ministers, agencies, institutions, state conventions, and their employees. The number of individual retirement accounts is approaching 100,000.

William Lunsford was pastor of Edgefield Church when he conceived the idea of a convention agency to provide relief to old or disabled pastors, their widows, and orphans.

Commemorating Lunsford's vision, agency representation from across the nation joined Annuity Board officers and the congregation in a special service Feb. 21. Baptist Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper taught the Sunday School lesson and Annuity Board President Paul Powell delivered the morning message. The date for the event was set to coincide with the winter meeting of the Executive Committee of the

Southern Baptist Convention Feb. 22-24.

The ministry of the Annuity Board began in the heart of a lawyer-turned-minister.

On a Monday morning in 1916, Lunsford went to the regular meeting of the Nashville Baptist Pastors' Conference. For a long time he had agonized over the wretched plight of old and disabled Baptist pastors, their widows, and orphans.

There was no Social Security in those days, no Southern Baptist pension plan, and little personal insurance. Meager salaries paid to ministers made savings hard at best and impossible for most. Other denominations, with central church authority, were addressing the problem. But Baptists, with complete local church autonomy, were leaving most pastors and their families to fend for themselves in times of crisis.

"Our nation takes care of its soldiers and sailors who are disabled," he said, "our great industries pension worn-out employees; why cannot our denomination provide for its veterans and worn-out workers?"

The Pastors' Conference made

an appeal to the Sunday School Board. The Sunday School Board sent it to the floor of the Southern Baptist Convention. The denominational conscience was stirred and, in 1917, a committee was appointed by SBC President J.B. Gambrell.

The Sunday School Board set aside \$100,000 to begin a ministry of relief if the convention chose to create a commission for this purpose. After Lunsford, as chairman, reported for the committee, a Commission on Ministerial Relief and Annuity was created. The commission would use earnings from the Sunday School Board gift for relief while plans for a suitable pension plan were worked out. The commission work included delicate communication with the several state societies doing relief work on their own.

To this day there is a basic tie between the state conventions and the Annuity Board. While the Southern Baptist Convention elects trustees of the Annuity Board, it is the state conventions who approve the "Plan Document" for the Church Annuity Plan. Each state convention determines eligibility to participate, and the state

conventions make certain contributions in behalf of most members in the Church Annuity Plan.

Today, the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program includes about \$1 million per year for relief and state convention educational programs, but no money for Annuity Board operating expense comes from the mission budget. The board is completely self-support-

ing.

During the 1972-90 administration of Darold H. Morgan, assets of the board grew from \$292 million to more than \$2.7 billion. Since Paul Powell became president, assets have grown to almost \$4 billion and annual benefits paid now exceed \$117 million. The Annuity Board is the 128th largest pension fund in the United States.

## Southern Seminary student leaders protest announcement

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Student leaders at Southern Seminary have written the chairman of the school's trustees protesting the public announcement in Nashville of R. Albert Mohler Jr. as the nominee for the school's next president.

The students said they first

learned of the nominee from a Louisville, Ky., *Courier-Journal* article the day after the Feb. 22 news conference.

The students' letter said the news conference in Nashville announcing Mohler's nomination heightened "the fears and instability on our campus."

Wayne Allen, a suburban Memphis, Tenn., pastor and chairman of the seminary's board of trustees, said Feb. 26 he was responding to the students' letter but would not comment specifically on that response.

"There was supposed to be a simultaneous release of the information on the seminary campus to faculty and the seminary community at the time of the news conference," he said. "It didn't happen!"

The Feb. 24 letter, stated, "On several occasions, the Presidential Search Committee has emphasized the importance of following the process. The actions on Feb. 22 (in Nashville) compromised the presidential search process."

The student leaders said they had voiced their concerns that the committee follow the process when they met with the committee Dec. 4. They said they were told the committee would announce the nominee at the April trustee meeting on the campus of the seminary.

"At this meeting we voiced concerns about the fears and instability on our campus. Members of the committee urged us to calm fears and anxieties by trusting the process. We were committed to follow your advice," the students wrote.

"We are at a loss to understand your actions (in Nashville). Why was the announcement made at a hurriedly called news conference in Nashville rather than at the April meeting of the trustees? Why was the announcement made at the SBC Executive Committee instead of in the presence of the community it most concerns?"

## Hattiesburg Acteen Lott selected to national panel

Jennifer Marie Lott, 17, of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, was recently selected National Acteens Panelist by WMU, SBC. Jennifer is the daughter of Theron and Elaine Lott. She has completed all Queen Levels and Service Aide in StudiAct.

Lott, one of six Acteens panelists chosen from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, is only the sixth Mississippi Acteen to serve as a panelist since the beginning of the program. She serves for one year and will attend the WMU Annual Meeting in Houston.

Lott was honored by her church Sunday night, Feb. 21. Marjean Patterson, executive director-treasurer of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, was guest speaker for the WMU Focus Week Emphasis. She presented a student Bible to Jennifer from the state WMU. A reception honoring Jennifer followed the service.

Patterson said, "As I stood beside Jennifer for more than an hour as people greeted her, it was evident that she was loved by both young and old in her church."

Russell Bush, pastor of Main Street, Hattiesburg, said, "In the six years I have been pastor at Main Street, Jennifer has been a strong leader in all youth activities. She is also a leader in school activities. She is one of those young people who not only 'talks the talk' but also 'walks the walk.'"



Jennifer M. Lott

## Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting

March 19-20, 1993  
First Baptist Church  
Gulfport, Mississippi

### THEME: ENCOUNTER MISSIONS!

Presiding: Mrs. Charles Tyler, Mississippi WMU president

#### Friday

9-11:30 a.m.

Hands-on missions experiences\*

2-4:00 p.m.

### ENCOUNTER MISSIONS LOCALLY!

Music: Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Aultman, NOBTS  
and Dot Pray, MBCB

Reports from participants in missions experiences of the morning.  
Presentation of mission work along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Speaker:

Mary Helen Dixon, WMU, SBC representing the Second Century Fund.

5-6:45 p.m.

Banquet in Fellowship Hall (cost: \$8, reservations necessary)

Music/drama by ONE VOICE

Speaker:

Catherine Allen, president of Women's Dept., Baptist World Alliance.

7-9:00 p.m.

### ENCOUNTER MISSIONS THROUGH MY STATE

Reports from Partnerships

Alaska: Valeria Sherard, retired home missionary

Zimbabwe: Jessalina Muringui, president of WMU, Zimbabwe

Testimony:

Jennifer Lott, national Acteens panelist, Hattiesburg

Encountering missions through Mississippi WMU

Recognition of distinguished church and association WMUs

Concert: Dr. and Mrs. Aultman & Dot Pray

#### Saturday

8-9:00 a.m.

Reception honoring Mrs. Charles Tyler, retiring Miss. WMU president

9:30-11:30 a.m.

### ENCOUNTER MISSIONS NATIONALLY

Music: Dr. and Mrs. Aultman & Dot Pray

Speakers:

Valeria Sherard, retired home missionary

Kay Bennett, home missionary, New Orleans

Business Session

Solo: Mrs. Ellen Tyler Speed, Collins

Recognition of parents of Mississippi home & foreign missionaries

11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Mission Tour & box lunch (cost: \$5, reservations necessary)

1:30-3:00 p.m.

### ENCOUNTER MISSIONS GLOBALLY

Music: Dr. and Mrs. Aultman and Dot Pray

Speakers:

Jessalina Muringui & June Mason, Zimbabwe

Music/Message: Major and June McDaniel, Korea

Commissioning service for WMU volunteers

Speaker: Catherine Allen

Consecration service and benediction

\*contact WMU office, (601) 968-3800



# capsules

**WHO'S WHO IN HOME MISSIONS:** The Home Mission Board's 4,922 missions personnel are appointed to a variety of categories and divisions of work. The number of personnel serving in each category (as of Dec. 31, 1991) is: Language Church Extension Division, 1,804; New Church Extension Division, 1,355; Mission Service Corps (MSC)\* 671; Associational Missions Division, 375; Church and Community Ministries Department, 323; Black Church Extension Division, 117; Special Ministries Department, 109; Evangelism Section, 93; Missions Ministries Division, 32; Extension Section, 24; Chaplaincy Division\*\* 8; Ministry Section, 7; Planning Section, 3; Volunteer Division, 1. (\* MSC is a missions opportunity for volunteers who commit to more than one year of service. Currently, more than 1,400 MSC volunteers are enlisted, but only those serving two years or more are included in the missions personnel count.) (\*\* More than 2,300 chaplains are endorsed by the SBC Chaplains Commission and serve in America and abroad. Only eight are appointed missionaries supported by the Home Mission Board.)

**BAPTIST STATE PAPER EDITORS NAME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** SCOTSDALE, Ariz. (BP) — Lynn M. Davis Jr. has been elected executive director of the Southern Baptist Press Association, a newly created part-time post for the association of Baptist state paper editors. Davis, a retired Baptist Sunday School Board marketing specialist and former state paper editor, was elected by the editors during their annual meeting in Scottsdale, Feb. 16-18. Davis, 62, was among the group of 191 employees offered retirement when the Sunday School Board went through a downsizing in 1992. He was editor of the *Ohio Baptist Messenger*, state paper for Ohio Southern Baptists, from 1962-66. He is a native of Jacksonville, Fla., and earned degrees from Ohio University in 1959 and New Orleans Seminary in 1962. He and his wife, Karen, live in Brentwood, Tenn., and have four grown children.

**BAPTISTS LEAD GROUPS ELIGIBLE FOR EARNED INCOME TAX BENEFIT:** WASHINGTON (BP) — The federal government will provide tax benefits this year of as much as \$2,200 to some working families with children, but as many as 4 million to 5 million eligible families, including apparently many Baptists, may be in danger of forfeiting the money as they did in 1992. In order to receive the earned income credit, eligible families must file a federal income tax return, either Form 1040 or 1040A, and a Schedule EIC form. Both forms must be filed for a family to receive the credit. Free assistance concerning earned income credit is available from IRS during business hours at 1-800-829-1040. A recorded message about the EIC may be heard 24 hours a day by calling 1-800-829-4477 and requesting topic 402.

**VOLUNTEERISM UP AT HMB:** ATLANTA (BP) — More than 71,700 Southern Baptist adults, college students, and youth group members volunteered their time in 1992 to assist Home Mission Board-related mission work, according to an HMB report. The figure represents a 3% increase compared to 1991, when 69,633 volunteers served in Christian ministry, evangelism, and church growth efforts through HMB connections and state partnerships. Volunteers' work in 1992 resulted in at least 11,432 professions of faith and 779 decisions to be involved in church-related work, said the report, prepared by the board's volunteer division. The number of Mission Service Corps volunteers, adults serving more than one year, increased 13% from 1,428 to 1,611, the report said. The number of summer college missionaries also grew, from 1,285 to 1,455, according to the report. Meanwhile, the number of mission youth group workers also increased from 30,509 to 31,626. Of the 71,740 volunteers in 1992, 82%, or 58,673, were short-term volunteers for less than a year. For more information, call the Home Mission Board's volunteer division at 1-800-HMB-VOLS.

## Cooperative Program gifts down in February by 8%

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program receipts for February were down 8.28% compared to the same month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

February gifts totaled \$10,996,497, compared to \$11,988,817 in February 1992, or a difference of \$992,320. The 1992-93 SBC monthly basic operating budget requirement is \$11,683,366. The current year's SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget is \$140,200,395.

The year-to-date totals for the Cooperative Program, however, remained ahead of the previous year: \$58,760,504 compared to \$57,954,409, for a \$806,095 difference, a 1.39% increase. The SBC fiscal year is Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

Designated gifts for February also were down: \$35,369,335 compared to \$40,831,800, or a difference of \$5,462,464 or 13.38%. Total designated gifts for the year dropped 1.94% below the comparative period of a year ago: \$64,929,599 to \$66,213,413.

## Exec. Committee asks WMU for "exclusive relationship"

NASHVILLE (ABP) — Woman's Missionary Union needs to affirm its "singular cooperation," "undivided commitment," and "exclusive relationship" with the Southern Baptist Convention and its mission boards, according to a resolution passed by the SBC Executive Committee Feb. 23.

WMU leaders were reluctant to discuss the resolution. WMU apparently would have to reverse its January decision allowing the mission-support group to work with non-SBC groups.

Two amendments to the document were offered in subcommittee debate. One failed amendment would have changed the "call upon" WMU's executive board to read "respectfully request."

The other amendment, which passed, changed a line that described "a relationship of 105 years" between WMU and the SBC to read "the exclusive relationship of 105 years."

No WMU representative was asked to address the full Executive Committee during discussion of the resolution. However, WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien was asked three brief questions in the meeting of the program and budget subcommittee.

Asked if WMU plans to promote the missions offering of the Fellowship, O'Brien said simply, "No."

Asked if WMU intends to become a missionary-sending agency, O'Brien again replied, "No."

Asked what is different about WMU as a result of the plan adopted in January, O'Brien said WMU plans to broaden its work in distributing missions-education literature.

### A Resolution of Concern and Commitment on the Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist Convention

Whereas, the Woman's Missionary Union has served loyally and effectively as an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention; and

Whereas, the Woman's Missionary Union was established originally for the express purpose of supporting the two mission boards of the Southern Baptist Convention, "disclaiming all intention of independent action;" and

Whereas, the Southern Baptist Convention and the Woman's Missionary Union have worked hand-in-hand for the cause of missions at home and abroad for 105 years; and

Whereas, the Woman's Missionary Union has led by precept and example in sacrificial support of the missionary cause, promoting and supporting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, in continual prayer support of Southern Baptist missionaries, and in the effective teaching and training of women and children for the cause of missions; and

Whereas, those offerings have produced millions of dollars in vital support for Southern Baptist missions and those prayers have sustained dedicated missionaries throughout the world; and

Whereas, the Southern Baptist Convention has respected and honored the contributions of the Woman's Missionary Union and seeks to work in close coordination and mutual trust with its auxiliary.

Therefore, be it resolved, that we, the members of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, hereby register our deep concern for the Woman's Missionary Union and its future relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention even as we affirm the long-established role of the Woman's Missionary Union and honor its unique and abiding contributions to this denomination and its missionary cause; and

Be it further resolved, that in light of the historically significant changes announced by the Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board on January 10, 1993, we call upon the Executive Board of the Woman's Missionary Union to make clear its singular cooperation with the Convention and its mission boards and its undivided commitment to the Cooperative Program, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions; and

Be it further resolved, that we express to the Woman's Missionary Union our urgent concern that the exclusive relationship of 105 years which has been so wondrously blessed by God be protected by mutual trust and loyalty; and

Be it further resolved, that we pledge our eager and glad-hearted intention to work with the Woman's Missionary Union, to respect and honor its effective and praiseworthy work, and to affirm its status as auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, so long as the Woman's Missionary Union pledges its faithful and solitary support of the mission offerings and mission programs of the Southern Baptist Convention and its mission boards.

Be it finally resolved, that this Executive Committee prayerfully support each agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, each state convention, each state fellowship, and each local church as they decide their response to the changes announced by Woman's Missionary Union.

## Unreleased Mason study stirs controversy

ATLANTA (ABP) — A Southern Baptist study of the possible evils of Freemasonry concludes there is no contradiction between the teachings of Masons and Christianity, but the unreleased study is already raising a stink.

Anti-Mason Baptists are calling for the dismissal of the Southern Baptist staffer who conducted the study after a letter surfaced in which he urged Masons to attend the June Southern Baptist Convention meeting in large numbers.

Gary Leazer, director of the Interfaith Witness Department of the SBC Home Mission Board in Atlanta, has been "reprimanded" for writing the Jan. 17 letter, HMB President Larry Lewis told Associated Baptist Press. Lewis said he will consult with Leazer's supervisor and the HMB's trustee chairman to determine if further discipline is warranted.

Leazer also has been removed from the HMB committee studying Masonic teachings, Lewis said. The study will be presented Mar. 16-17 to HMB trustees, who will recommend action to the June SBC.

The issue of Masonry is a difficult one for Baptist leaders because as many as 15% of South-

ern Baptists are Masons. Opponents say Masonic teachings and rituals are anti-Christian, racially segregated, and even satanic.

Masons, the largest secret men's organization in the world, promote brotherhood and good deeds but have always insisted their group is not a religion.

"James L. Holly is quite upset

with me," Leazer wrote, "as I will not meet with him again to let him approve the report before it is submitted. He, of course, will explode when he sees it. I am reaffirming our department's 1986 position that Freemasonry is NOT a religion and recommending that the SBC take a stand neither for nor against Freemasonry."

## Strategists meet in Nashville to renew discussion on states

NASHVILLE (ABP) — State-level Baptist strategists met again to compare notes on their continued efforts to extend fundamental-conservative control to the state Baptist conventions.

The state-level organizers met in Nashville Feb. 24-25, on the heels of the winter meeting of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

The meeting gives state leaders a chance to "exchange experiences," said organizer and Virginia strategist T.C. Pinckney, who also serves as vice chairman of the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee.

Several members of the Executive Committee participated in a

similar meeting last August in Memphis organized by Pinckney, a retired Air Force general from Alexandria, Va.

Strategies were put to the test at state convention meetings last November. Fundamental-conservatives gained ground in some states, like Kentucky, but not in others, like Florida.

Asked if he was pleased with the results in the state conventions last fall, Pinckney quipped, "I wasn't pleased with the results in Virginia," where fundamental-conservatives failed to elect him president. But, he added, the Memphis meeting "proved helpful for some" of the participants.



# Letters to the editor

## Letters to the Editor policy

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

All correspondence is subject to editing. Letters must be limited to 250 words.

No more than one letter will be printed during a 3-month period from any individual. Each correspondent must include an address and the name of his or her church.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with that subject will be terminated.

In special instances, when to identify the writer of a letter might cause undue embarrassment, the name will be withheld.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

## Commends new look

Editor:

I have been a reader of the Baptist Record for many years. I am a Mississippian, and a mission pastor in Reno, Nev. Many times, I have thought how old and tired the Baptist Record had been looking. However, the "look and feel" of the Jan. 28, 1993 issue looks much more crisp and modern. I recognize that it has a USA Today style, however, it says "now" much more so than it has in the past. From the (BP) graphic by Marty Croll in the top right corner on the front page, to the "sidebar" section at the bottom of the page, complete with exploded text boxes and the reverse text on the sub headings in the "Briefly" section. The changes on the other pages have not gone unnoticed, either.

I know that you have been making the transition from paste-up to computerized desktop publishing, and I know how difficult change is. I just wanted to drop you a note

to commend you on the direction that you are heading. Your paper is looking better each week. Keep up the good work.

Arnold Chavers  
Reno, NV

## Capsule unbelievable

Editor:

One word summarizes my reaction as I read the Feb. 11 "Capsules" section of the Baptist Record: incredulity. The president of one of our Southern Baptist seminaries was recently denied watchcare status at a local church in Wake Forest, N.C. Presumably, the conservative views and policies of Paige Patterson were deemed offensive by the deacons of that church. I write for two reasons. First, why was a story of this magnitude relegated to the sixth page? Unquestionably, if a leader of the liberal element in our denomination had been mistreated similarly by a local church, the

front page of the Baptist Record would have been devoted completely to the story. Second, does not this incident expose the rank hypocrisy of liberals who claim that the current SBC leadership is not "inclusive" enough? How inclusive is it to deny watchcare status to a fellow Southern Baptist simply because he believes uncompromisingly in the veracity of God's Word? Apparently, Patterson's dauntless convictions have disqualified him from association with a church which champions "unity" only with those who espouse their own agenda.

My brief encounters with Paige Patterson have convinced me that he is a Baptist scholar and statesman of the highest order. Those who know him best assure me that he is a man of prayer, a faithful soul winner, and a devoted family man. I am sure that I speak for thousands of other churches when I say, "Patterson, we at Lexie Church would be delighted to enter into a watchcare arrangement — or any other church relationship — with a Christian of your caliber!"

David Bailey, pastor  
Lexie Church  
Tylertown

## Love toward fellows

Editor:

It is easy to say we love God when it doesn't cost us anything. The real test of how much we love God is how we treat fellow Southern Baptists. How can we say that we love God while neglecting to love all people who are created in his image?

We say we love God and yet we want to include some and exclude other fellow believers who do not see "eye to eye" with us.

It is time that we stop playing judge, jury, and executioner, and return to our mission — leading people to Jesus Christ! If we think we must judge someone's commitment, let us do it according to God's Word and not our imperfect standards.

The Bible gives us several tests to judge one's commitment. 1 John 4:2 gives the test of how his words compare to God's Word, and what is his commitment to the family of God? This tests his lifestyle.

In 1 John 2:19 there is the test of producing fruit in the family of God. What is his fruit-producing record? I am afraid many of us would fail this test!

1 John 4:6 gives us several thoughts about our Baptist leaders.

Do they teach Christ as being fully God and fully man? Do they preach and teach that the blood of Christ is the agent from God to cleanse from sin? Do they preach and teach the death, burial, and resurrection on the third day of Jesus Christ? What do they believe about his virgin birth?

There are a lot of people claiming to speak for Christ. Give them these tests. They should pass all of them. If they do not pass the tests, then let's get on with the work and stop casting our good brothers aside both in the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the SBC as well! Let us get away from the "caste system" and, as Bill Causey said at last year's convention, let's follow Christ and not man!

E. Leslie Hicks, pastor  
Shiloh Church  
Port Gibson

## Nigeria revisited

Editor:

Sitting in the international airport in Lagos, Nigeria, waiting for the plane that would start me on my homeward journey, my mind went back over the 25 wonderful days that I had spent in churches, homes, and travelling to various parts of the country to see Nigerian and missionary friends. Suddenly I was aware of the music coming over the speaker: "...Thou art worthy, Oh Lord, to receive glory..." What a fitting climax. I will never cease to praise him for the 22 wonderful years that I had living and working with the people there, and after having been gone for 15 years to return and see what he is doing in and through the people. Thank you so much for your prayers for me during that time. I did not even have the normal aches and pains that I have here. God gave me the strength to take advantage of every opportunity that came, and come they did.

When I was there before working as the Baptist Student Director for the Nigerian Baptist Convention my office was in the Baptist headquarters building. I enjoyed speaking in their devotional service, and visiting from office to office to get an update from the different departments. The director of the Home and Foreign Mission work of the Convention showed me the program for the appointment of a new missionary couple going to the country of Sierra Leone.

A visit to the Ogbomoso Baptist Hospital gave me opportunity to see three of my former students

in action. Dr. Adebayo Ojelade had been a student in a government high school when he became a Christian in one of my Bible study groups. He was a Moslem from a strong Moslem family, but God has done a mighty work in him. He completed medical school in a university there, then specialized here in the U.S., and is now the internist for the hospital. Dr. Dosun Gboderi is the pediatrician and Dr. Sola Elimele is the administrator. It was wonderful to see them in action, meet their families, and be a guest in their homes.

The Student Department has been developed and well organized. The staff had a welcome reception to share with me concerning the current growth and work throughout the country which now has a university in each of the 30 states.

We often sing the chorus, "God, you're so good. God, you're so good. God, you're so good, you're so good to me." He has been so good to me, and I praise his holy name. Thank you for your prayers and your love and concern.

Mary Frank Kirkpatrick  
Noxapater

## Our blessings decline

Editor:

I will be 76 this year and God has blessed my generation more than any other in Bible history.


We really appreciate Richard Land and others doing articles about how far our country has gone in the devil's direction.

After World War II, we made lots of the Southern states, going to foxhunter field trials, and have done the same for some eight years. The Christians we see today that show the fruits of knowing Jesus Christ are real scarce. We are convinced America is following the same pattern as Babylon and Sodom and Gomorrah, even worse — they didn't kill unborn children.

The fall of modern Babylon and America follow the same pattern. America has been the golden cup in the Lord's hands, but the devil has taken over and much of our nation is drunk. Simple honesty is shrugged at, with our politicians in high places.

Many of our people think of America as a milk cow, but they won't work or give the cow time to freshen. This is the group that has all but destroyed the Social Security system, drawing Social Security and all other welfare when they put nothing in it. Social Security is not a welfare program as described by the drones and many liberal congressmen. It is supposed to belong to those who paid for it. Now we have too many that have tasted the wine and its powers and their aim is to live off working America and save the spotted owl.

Prentiss Walker  
Mize



**michael w smith**

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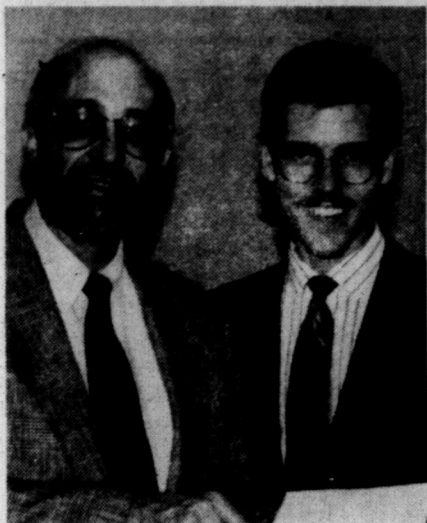
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# Names in the News



**Chris Turner**, right, of Pascagoula, a Mississippi College music major pursuing a double major in church music and vocal performance, recently participated in vocal competition at the regional Music Teacher's National Association Competition in Columbus, Ga. He is a student of Richard Joiner, left, professor and head of the music department. Turner won the right to advance to the regionals after capturing high honors in the Mississippi Music Teacher's Association Collegiate Artist Competition.



**Paul Saik**, right, of Jackson, a junior majoring in church music at Mississippi College, recently competed in the Music Teacher's National Association Competition in Columbus, Ga. He placed as an alternate in the seven-state regional competition. Saik, a student of Billy Trotter, left, assistant professor of music, took high honors in the Mississippi Music Teacher's Association Collegiate Artist Competition before advancing to the regionals.

**Jimmie D. Garrard Sr.** will be honored for his 10th anniversary as pastor of Green's Creek Church, Petal, March 7. Homecoming will be held on the same day with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., worship at 11 a.m., and a covered dish meal served at noon.



**Garrard**

The church will celebrate Love Your Church Day. The special service honoring Garrard will be at 1:30 p.m.



**Glen Eaves of Clinton**, dean of the college of arts and sciences and professor of history at Mississippi College, has been honored with the establishment of an endowed lectureship in his name. It will be entitled the "Glen Eaves Lectureship in European and English History" and will bring a historian to Mississippi College each year for special lectures aimed at benefitting students and faculty alike. The lectureship was established by one of Eaves' former professors who has chosen to remain anonymous. Pictured taking part in the announcement of the lectureship were, from left, Rory Lee, vice-president for institutional advancement; Eaves, the honoree; and Ron Howard, head of the department of history and political science.

## EXECUTIVE

From page 3

of the future of theological education in the SBC, the Executive Committee authorized chairman David Hankins, a Lake Charles, La., pastor, to appoint a study committee in consultation with the SBC's Education Commission and six seminaries.

Such a study is needed, said Guy Sanders, program and budget subcommittee chairman and a Lake Wales, Fla., pastor, because questions abound which no other SBC entity is assigned to address. Matters needing attention, he said, include the relationship between the SBC's six seminaries and state Baptist colleges, especially those with theology programs; whether and where new SBC seminaries might be needed; the range of degree programs offered; and various funding questions.

The Executive Committee also approved a revision of the seminaries' SBC program statement to include baccalaureate programs. The revision, requested by the seminaries' presidents, reflects adjustment to New Orleans Seminary's new baccalaureate program, started last fall.

In other business, the Executive Committee:

— set a \$38,000 fee to the Pastors' Conference for costs related to the yearly pre-SBC meeting.

— approved the hiring of C. Barry McCarty, president of Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary, to serve again as parliamentarian of this year's SBC meeting in Houston.

— gave full representation for the Nevada Baptist Convention on SBC entities, and expanded representation for the Utah-Idaho Convention on the Foreign and Home Mission Boards and the Sunday School Board.

— declined action on a motion from the 1992 SBC annual meeting to change the annual meeting from the current Tuesday-through-Thursday to a Monday-through-Wednesday schedule.

— authorized continued study of a registration fee at SBC annual meetings.

— approved a 3% raise for Executive Committee staff members, effective Oct. 1.

— approved a recommendation to the SBC of a more detailed description of financial information to be made available by SBC agencies to members of cooperating Southern Baptist churches. The proposed policy in the convention's business and financial plan would provide access to information from "records of SBC entities regarding income, expenditures, debts, reserves, operating balances, and salary structures." The proposal would replace a policy which reads, "...the books of all convention agencies shall be open for inspection ...."

— approved a change in the way gifts are recorded at the SBC level, with the Executive Committee to accept funds and designate them as "Cooperative Program" gifts if designated as such from state conventions. Gifts received directly from churches or individuals for distribution only to SBC entities will be reported as "Cooperative-SBC Causes." The latter category will be added to reports presented by the Executive Committee, and the SBC basic budget title will be changed from "SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget" to "SBC Program Allocation Budget." The recommendation makes clear that any designations or restrictions by donors to causes recognized by the SBC Program Allocation Budget "will be strictly honored."

**Toalston writes for Baptist Press.** Herb Hollinger, director of Baptist Press, contributed to this report.

## HOBBS

From page 2

But, he added, recent events — like the controversy over the SBC's Woman's Missionary Union — have dimmed that hope somewhat. "I've been saying all along we're going to end up back together, but I'm beginning to wonder."

Hobbs, legendary pastor of First Church of Oklahoma City, is a theological conservative and one of Southern Baptists' most prolific theological writers. Heretofore, he has not been critical of the SBC's new leaders, and he told ABP his commentary was not directed at any individuals.

"I am just one Southern Baptist who has (prayed) and does pray for a return of our historic Baptist position — unity in diversity," he wrote.

Hobbs asked leaders of the two factions to meet and bring a plan for reconciliation to the SBC annual meeting in Houston, the city where their controversy first erupted in 1979. "The controversy began in Houston. Let it end there!" he declared.

The leaders should "come to the convention with a recommendation that we lock hearts and hands as, through unity in diversity, we do together the work God has for us to do," he wrote.

Hobbs said the fateful 1979 meeting in Houston was significant not only because it marked the onset of the controversy but because it launched Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' ambitious program to preach the gospel to everyone in the world by the year 2000.

Southern Baptists missed "their finest hour" by becoming distracted by the controversy and not fulfilling Bold Mission Thrust, Hobbs said.

Hobbs recited the history of the ancient Hebrews, who after fleeing Egypt stopped short of taking possession of the Promised Land

when they rebelled at Kadesh-barnea. "In Houston we came to our Kadesh-barnea," he wrote. "We looked over into our Canaan but rebelled. We refused to enter it. Consequently we have wandered in the wilderness of controversy for 14 years."

When Southern Baptists return to Houston this June, Hobbs said, they should devote an entire session of their convention — usually three to four hours — to confession, prayer for forgiveness, and rededication to Bold Mission Thrust.

But Chapman said the SBC previously devoted an entire session of its annual meeting to prayer for spiritual awakening in 1991.

Chapman, noting that his own 1992 presidential address was based on the same account of Hebrew history cited by Hobbs, said, "As you can see, I agree with much of what Dr. Hobbs has written."

Chapman said he has "great respect" for Hobbs, adding, "When he speaks, he always says something which gives food for thought."

## Staff Changes

**Popps Ferry Church, Biloxi**, has called **Steven R. Wilkinson** as pastor, effective Jan. 24. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary where he received his master of divinity degree.

**Davis Road Church of Byram**, has called **Tim Aycock** as minister of music and youth. A native of Morton, he holds an associate's degree from New Orleans Seminary. He previously served at Priceville Church, Tupelo.

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**RANKIN COUNTY CHURCH** needs portable buildings to house growing Sunday School. Contact **Steve Stubbelfield**, P.O. Box 1497, Brandon, MS 39043.





**Calhoun Association** recently held its annual Men/Boys rally. The race car competition highlighted this event. Winners pictured from left, front row, are Christopher Wilson, Justin Simpson, Matt Swords; back row, Scott Cobb, Jason White, and David Martin, associational RA leader. Wayne Gullett is pastor.

**Riverside Church in Long Beach** will host the Dixie Echoes in concert, March 7 at 7 p.m. Sam Parker is pastor.

**The William Carey College Theatre** will present the docu-drama "God's Country," by Steven Dietz, Mar. 4-6, 8 p.m., in the O.L. Quave Theatre on campus. The production is based on the growth of the white supremacist movement in America, and the lives of Alan Berg and Robert Matthews. Seats are \$6, free to William Carey College students, and \$3 for other students. Make reservations by calling (601) 582-6221.

**The Mississippi College Concert Band** will present its spring performance Mar. 8, 8:15 p.m., in Swor Auditorium on campus. John Hanbery, professor of music and director of bands, will conduct.



**West Ripley Church, Ripley**, recently held a recognition service for its GAs and Acteens. The theme was "Friend to Friend." GAs in top picture are LaShea Bourg, Chelsa Alfonso, Andrea Moore, Dawn Miller, and Rebecca Walker. Not pictured is Jordan Stubbs. Acteens, pictured at bottom, are Maria Goolsby, Wendy Jeanes, Anita Goolsby, Kelly Jackson, Debra Thomas, and Emily Goolsby.



**First Church, Summit** (Pike Association) this year set three Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goals: \$13,000, \$14,000, and \$15,000. The church exceeded its highest goal by \$2,370. Earl Hewitt, furloughing missionary, above left, receives the check for \$17,370 from John McCall, interim pastor.



**Fellowship Church, Choctaw Association**, recently honored **Hubert Smith** for over 30 years of service as music director. A fellowship was held in his honor. Pictured presenting him a plaque is Frank Trotter, pastor.



**Pearson Church, Pearl**, has exceeded its goal of \$4,000 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by \$200. Nina Rayborn is president of the Baptist Women. Wayne Long is pastor.

**Neshoba Association**, has exceeded its \$600 goal for gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. The church gave \$1,200 to the offering. Old Pearl Valley averages 30 in Sunday School. Ferrell Cork is interim pastor.

**Old Pearl Valley Church**,

## Alwilda M. Reber, former missionary, dies in Texas

Alwilda Montgomery Reber, 72, former Southern Baptist missionary to Singapore, died Feb. 24 in Houston, after a long battle with cancer. She had been undergoing treatment at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center there.

Reber, who played the organ, piano, and accordion, accompanied her husband, Sidney C. Reber, baritone, in many Christian music programs for Southern Baptist churches and for congregations overseas. They recorded two albums for a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Born in Fairview, Mo., Mrs. Reber attended Belhaven College, Jackson, Miss., and received the bachelor of arts degree from Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Reber is survived by a daughter, Rebecca Washington, and two granddaughters, all of Plano, Texas.

## Revival Dates

**Lincoln Road, Hattiesburg** (Lebanon): Mar. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ed Thiele, professor, New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; L.D. Golman, pastor.

**Center Terrace, Canton** (Hinds-Madison): Mar. 10-14; Wed.-Sat., 6:45 p.m.; Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Ed Vallowe, evangelist; Jerry T. Hood, pastor.

**West Ellisville, Ellisville**: Mar. 7-10; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Angel Martinez, Ft. Smith, Ark., evangelist; Dwight L. Smith, pastor.

**Providence, Grenada**: Mar. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wiley McGee, Covington, La., evangelist; Gary Jenkins, Grenada, music; J.C. Hall, pastor.

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## Uniform Jesus as the Messiah



By Chuck Pourciau  
John 1:1-18

John is unique among the gospel writers. In the other gospels the story of Jesus is unfolded gradually through the activities and teachings of Jesus. Yet John, in these first 18 verses, removed all suspense concerning the identity of Jesus. He identified him as the eternal Christ. He showed the reader that God became human in the person of Jesus so that he could reveal himself and offer life to all who would receive him. John then presented the activities and teachings of Jesus as proofs for the message of these first eighteen verses. What can we learn about life in Christ from this prologue of John's Gospel?

**The nature and eternity of Christ (vv. 1-3).** The eternity of Christ was stressed in the first three words of the Gospel. "In the beginning was the Word." Matthew and Luke began with the birth of Jesus while Mark began his account with the baptism of Jesus, but John began his account at the beginning of time. Jesus' birth in Bethlehem did not constitute the beginning of his existence. Both his eternity and his activity in creation underscore his divine nature. Yet his divine nature could not have been stated more clearly than in verse one: "... the Word was God."

The messianic mission of Jesus was not something that was revealed to him while he was working in the carpenter shop. His death on the cross was not an accident. He left the portals of glory for the express purpose of suffering and dying for us. What a tremendous sacrifice!

**The mission of Christ (vv. 4-5).** When John wrote the words, "In him was life," he showed that Jesus brought something into this world that all men had lost, life. Because of sin, man knew and knows only death. Because of Jesus, and only because of Jesus, man can know life. The mission of Christ was to bring light and life into a dark and dying world.

Jesus chose to enter the world and, through tremendous suffering, do for man what man couldn't do for himself.

**The forerunner of Christ (vv. 6-9, 15).** John was a prophet of transition. He provided a transition from the prophetic age of the Old Testament to the Messianic age of the New. He was not the Christ, but he was the one who prepared the people for the mission and message of Christ. He bore witness to the light.

We as Christians should be able to identify with the mission of John the Baptist. After all, it is our duty to bear witness to the light in all that we do. We do not bring about a change in the lives of others. We prepare the way for Jesus to bring about that change. We too serve as forerunners of the light.

**The rejection of Christ (vv. 10-11).** The Jews had long been anticipating the Messiah, but when he came they, for the most part, did not recognize or receive him. In fact, they played the leading role in bringing about his death.

Jesus' offer is extended today as it was then, but the decision lies with the individual. Refusal to receive his gift is a decision to remain in death. Those who continue to reject God's offer of grace need to realize something very important. This offer of grace is not offered in hell.

**The acceptance of Christ (vv. 12-13, 16).** Jesus did not experience complete rejection. For those who exercised faith, he gave the right to become children of God. This is not an adoption but a rebirth. Also, this new birth results in blessing after blessing (v. 16). The blessings of life in Christ are immediate. It is not something that one has to wait until the afterlife to enjoy.

**The revelation of Christ (vv. 14, 17-18).** One fact John made clear in these verses. Jesus revealed God. He showed this when he stated that they had "beheld his glory." It was even more clearly stated when John wrote that Jesus had made the Father known (v. 17). Jesus was God in all his fullness. He was the complete revelation of God. A more complete revelation of God is not possible and, therefore, will not be given. The final piece of the puzzle is not more historical information or verification. It is faith. To continue to wait on something else is to risk an eternal waiting in the pits of hell.

Life in Christ is life lived in the continual grace of God. It is life where faith is an ever present companion. Without this constant companion we cannot please God.

Pourciau is pastor, First Church, Louisville.

## Bible Book Community thanksgiving



By Guy A. Hughes  
Psalms 67, 75, 107

An elderly man about to repair the roof of his house was seen climbing a ladder with nails stuffed in his mouth and a hammer in his hand. Later a neighbor heard him praising the Lord. Curious, he asked, "What's all the shouting about?"

"I swallowed a nail and dropped my hammer," came the reply.

"Well, I can't see why you're happy about that."

"O but I am!" the old gentleman retorted. "I'm thankful I didn't drop the nail and swallow the hammer!"

If more people would have the optimism and spiritual resolve of that old gentleman the world would be a better place. People who have an abiding relationship with God are thankful regardless of their situation. The apostle Paul put it this way, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances" (Phil. 4:11).

**Prayer for universal uraise (67:1-3).** Most commentators believe this song was sung at harvest time. The language here is very similar to the priestly blessing found in Numbers 6:24-26. The oldest recovered verse of the Old Testament is this one, found engraved on thin metal foil. "His face shine upon us" is imagery symbolizing favor, looking at someone approvingly. The psalmist prayed for God's blessings on Israel in order that God might be known and acknowledged by all the people of the earth. A prayer for personal blessing is not selfish if the intent is to further God's kingdom on this earth. The Christian cries, "Bless me, O Lord, that I might bless others."

**Praise for God's judgment and blessings (67:4-7).** The psalmist was very aware that God will judge and govern all the nations fairly. Human governments cannot supply the righteousness required to judge all nations. Only God can dispense adequate justice. He will do so in his time. An abundant harvest was evidence of God's blessings upon the nation (Mal. 3:10-12).

**God as Judge (75:1-3, 7-9).** The psalmist expresses thanks to God because he has appointed a day of judgment. Every victim is glad to have his day in court. Unlike human courts, where the wicked often "boast" and go free, God will avenge the blood of the innocent. Verse 8 graphically depicts that the wicked have no choice but to face God's judgment. It may be hard to swallow. The righteous should give thanks to God for even if the earth shakes around us, and causes us alarm, he will steady it.

**A call to give thanks (107:1-3).** The psalmist calls for the "redeemed" of the Lord to give thanks and proclaim his love. Redeemed means to "buy back." A slave unable to purchase his own freedom must find a "kinsman redeemer", someone who was willing to pay the price. Should not emancipated slaves be grateful to the hand which set them free? Our most high God, united with Christ, came into this world to redeem us from the bondage of sin. He paid the price for our freedom and we are no longer servants of sin and Satan. Thank you, Lord!

**God's deliverance (107:4-7).** These verses are the first of four examples used in this Psalm to describe God's deliverance. The lost traveller on life's highway goes hungry and thirsty, as his life ebbs away, until he sees the need for a guide and calls to him. God delivers the lost when they acknowledge their need for him and seek his direction. Only then will their lives become settled.

One morning at the breakfast table a father asked the blessing as usual. Quoting Bible verses, he piously thanked the Lord for all his bountiful provisions. After he concluded, however, he grumbled loudly about the poor quality of the food and berated his wife for the way it was cooked. He seemed to be disgruntled with everything. Finally his young daughter interrupted him. "Dad," she began, "do you think God heard what you said when you prayed?"

"Certainly," he replied confidently.

"And did he also hear when you complained about the bacon and coffee just now?"

"Why, of course!"

"Then which did God believe?"

Hughes is pastor, Friendship Church, Grenada.

## Life and Work When things go wrong



By Laura Russell  
Genesis 37:3-5, 23-24a, 28;  
50:19-20

There is no more admirable or attractive man in all of the Old Testament than Joseph. He possessed so many desirable qualities — generosity, high ideals, unselfishness, clean living, a forgiving spirit — that we can be inspired by the study of his life. Through study of his life and experiences, we will see God's plan being fulfilled in spite of human harassment and hindrance. In this episode of Joseph, we are reminded of God's promise in Isaiah 43:1-3: "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you... Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy one of Israel, your Savior."

**Israel's favoritism and Joseph's dreaming anger (37:3-5).** In Joseph's day, everyone had a robe or cloak. Cloaks were used to keep warm, to bundle up belongings for a trip, to sit on, and even sometimes to serve as security for a loan. Most cloaks were knee length, short sleeved, and plain. Joseph's, in contrast, was long-sleeved, ankle length, and colorful. This coat became a symbol of Jacob's favoritism toward Joseph and it intensified the brothers' animosity toward their younger brother.

Another reason for the strained relationships was Joseph informing his brothers of his prophetic dreams. It was impossible for his brothers to accept the prophetic vision. They were already jealous from the undisguised favoritism shown by their father, and the vision seemed to be the final blow. Their anger and jealousy were aroused to the point of danger.

**Joseph's brothers plot against him (37:18-20).** The embittered brothers soon find a way to dispose of this dreamer of dreams. Israel sends Joseph to check on his brothers, who are tending their father's flocks near Shechem. When they see him far off they conspire to kill him. The brothers were angry over the possibility of being ruled by their little brother. Therefore, they think that they have to kill him in order to make sure that his dreams will never come true.

**Joseph's brothers throw him in a pit (37:23-24a).** When they first lay hands on Joseph to kill him, Reuben, the oldest brother, pleads for his life and Joseph is spared. They strip Joseph of his robe and throw him into a pit. Joseph at one moment walked in the sunlight in his coat of many colors; the next moment he was in stifling darkness. One moment he seemed to have no need of anything and the next moment he had desperate need of everything. The Lord had a purpose with Joseph, and through being thrown into the pit, Joseph was started on a road to understanding God as never before.

**Joseph's brothers sell him (37:28).** When a caravan of Ishmaelite merchants comes by, Judah, pleading for his brother's life, suggests they sell him to the Ishmaelites. The brothers thought by doing so, Joseph's life would be spared and the brothers would be free of his blood. The brothers probably didn't expect Joseph to survive for long as a slave. They were quite willing to let cruel slave traders do their dirty work for them. Joseph faced a 30-day journey through the desert. He would be treated as baggage, and once in Egypt, would be sold as a piece of merchandise. His brothers thought they would never see him again.

**Joseph declares his faith in God (50:19-20).** With humility Joseph reminds his brothers that he is not God, and so has no right to judge or punish them. Above the evil deeds of his brothers was the overruling providence of God at work in Joseph's life: "And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..." (v. 20).

This is the sturdy principle we can cling to when confronted with difficult circumstances. We may not understand why something has happened, but we can rest confidently in the eternal truth that God will work through our circumstances for our good and his glory.

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

Russell is a member of First Church, Brandon.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



## The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mr. W.F. Scott  
Miss Lorraine Norman  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Powers  
Preston Selman  
Mr. Dudley Williamson  
Mrs. Fannie Power Seymore  
Mrs. Pervel Sanders  
Jack Sherrer  
Ms. Fanny Wallace  
Mrs. Justin (Elate) Shirley  
Mrs. Thelma Bess Baggett & Family  
Mr. R. Floyd Simmons  
Dr. Elise M. Curtis  
Mrs. Frances Simmons  
Mr. & Mrs. Everett Wilson  
Mr. Page H. Simpson

Mrs. Floyd Griffin  
Howard Skinner  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Peebles Jr.  
Mrs. Frances Sledge  
Mrs. Linette M. Brewster  
Mrs. Carla Smallwood  
Ms. Julia Mullins & Family  
Ms. Thelma Woodyear  
P.L. Linda & Dusty Matthews  
Bernice Elizabeth Smith  
Ms. Marguerite Vance  
Eleanor Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. W.K. McCaskill  
Harry Grimes Smith  
Mrs. Eugenia A. Ekridge  
Marvin C. Smith  
Graber Brothers Inc.  
Millard F. Smith  
Smith Family Reunion  
Mr. J.V. Smith  
Mrs. J.V. Smith  
Mrs. Devey Smith  
Miss Mary Alice Jolly  
Mr. & Mrs. John Manning  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry N. Stevens  
Mr. & Mrs. D.O. Thoms  
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Walley  
Mrs. Elender Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Adams  
Mrs. Elender Smith  
Mr. Clarence M. Shannon  
Rudolph Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Neel  
Virginia Smith  
Mrs. Myra Simmons  
Mrs. Perry Smithers  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy W. Wolfe  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob J. Snell  
Mr. & Mrs. Reese Snell  
Ann DeLoach Snyder  
Mr. & Mrs. J.H. Snyder  
Cox Sonny  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Barker  
Amy Sprayberry  
Mr. George Sprayberry  
John W. Sproles  
Mrs. Dorothy Sproles Oberschmidt  
Jack Stallings  
Cascilla Baptist Church  
Mrs. Mary Charlene Standrod  
Mr. & Mrs. Ruble Cochran  
Edwin Stanley  
Ms. Ireta W. Graham  
Mrs. Charlene Stanrod  
Leroy, Sandra & Morgan Peoples  
Ted Starnes  
Mr. & Mrs. Milburn Starnes  
Mrs. Ima Jean Steed  
Mrs. Edith Aldridge  
Mrs. Elizabeth Starnes  
Mrs. Sam B. Bounds  
Mrs. R.J. Stoker  
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Neal  
James Stroupe  
Mrs. W.R. Meredith  
Katherine Ervin Stutts  
Mr. & Mrs. William T. Keating  
Mrs. Kathryn Stutts  
Fidelis SS, FBC Crystal Springs  
Mr. J.T. Suddeth  
Ms. Ellen Wells  
Mr. Estel L. Sullivan  
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer L. Roberts  
Arnold Sutton  
Mrs. Emma Belle Sutton  
Mr. and Mrs. Jennie Sutton  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Matulich  
Lewis Sylvester  
Mrs. Nancy McGraw  
Mr. H.E. Talbert  
Mr. & Mrs. J.P. Kelly  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Touchstone Jr.  
Mrs. Lorraine Tate  
Miss Kathy Bowman  
Jim Q. Tatum Sr.  
Mrs. Jimmie T. Callicott  
Bert Stewart Taylor  
Mr. Marvin E. Taylor  
Mrs. Addie Taylor  
James & Evelyn Sandling  
Ray and Benji Thomas  
M/M Billy Breithaupt & Family  
Devin Thompson  
Herman, Sheron  
& Christopher Coats  
Dr. W.B. Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.  
G. Dan Thompson  
The Jerry Hasseman Family

Mrs. Ralph Lilly  
Myrtle L. Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Donnie Ray Moffett  
& Leah  
James E. "Billy" Thornton  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Butler  
Siloam Baptist Church  
Clarence Toler  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Owens  
Judge James A. Torrey Sr.  
Mrs. Ruby S. Boggan  
Ms. Julia Mullins & Family  
Marguerite Townsend  
Mr. & Mrs. Abb M. Henry Jr.  
Mother of Mrs. Rogers Turner  
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Carter  
Dr. Charles Tyler  
W.M.U., Newton Baptist  
Association  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie F. Baggett  
Dr. Elise M. Curtis  
Mrs. Alice P. Miley  
Miss Grace Van Norman  
Miss Christine Hollis  
Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.  
Mrs. Florence Vance  
Mr. & Mrs. Sherman Hamilton  
Mrs. Earl L. Vennard  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Healy  
Matthew L. Virden, III  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Blount  
Mrs. Peggy Wade  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Spraberry  
Ruth SS, FBC Eupora  
Mrs. Percy (Nora) Waggoner  
Mrs. Marguerite C. Given  
The Jack Hardage Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Landon E. Brown  
Ms. Evelyn Walden  
Donnie & Barber Moffett & Leah  
Mr. Martin Walker  
Emory Baptist Church  
Mr. Robert M. Walker  
Dr. & Mrs. W.C. Anderson  
Mrs. Lucille Walker  
Lavan Seales SS, Macedonia BC  
Mrs. Myrtle Walley  
Mr. & Mrs. D.O. Thoms  
Elizabeth Wells  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
Mr. James Engle Ward  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny E. Hamilton

Patricia Henson Ward  
Jodi Hardy  
Mr. & Mrs. Hank Robison  
Steve Ward  
Dr. Elise M. Curtis  
Mrs. Ruth Wardlaw  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Pajerski C.L.U.  
Bill Ware  
Mr. & Mrs. Jarvis Deaman  
Mr. and Mrs. Max Warren  
Mr. & Mrs. E.H. Scruggs  
Mr. John Watkins  
Mr. & Mrs. David Jenkins  
Senya Robbins Watkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan King  
Mrs. Eva Kitchens Webb  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter E. Pugh  
Matthew Weeden  
Employees of Union County  
Wecker  
Dorothy Wells  
Mr. B.F. Wells  
The Father of Ronnie West  
Mr. & Mrs. David Jenkins  
Ben Westbrook  
Graber Brothers Inc.  
Charles O. White III  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Creed  
Kenneth Ray (Buck) White  
Mrs. Mary Hudgins  
Mrs. Charlotte Reeves  
Mr. & Mrs. George Hughes  
Mr. & Mrs. George Hughes  
Mr. & Mrs. Sammy D. Myers  
Mrs. John White  
Mrs. J.B. Lewis  
Mrs. Mattie Huffine White  
Mr. C.E. Sellers  
Eric Whitley  
Mrs. Ruby A. Sherman  
Mrs. Mary Riley Wilkinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer L. Roberts  
Mrs. Ann Willard  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank B. Fortenberry  
Greely Williams Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron K. Phillips  
Mr. Harold Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Lee Boone  
Mr. & Mrs. E.C. Parsons  
Mr. Lonnie Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Joiner  
Winnie R. Williams

Mrs. Thelma Woodyear  
Pauline Willoughby  
Mr. Marc McArthur  
Mrs. Nancy Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry A. McCormick  
Mr. Bill Winders  
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Charles Theodore Womack Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl A. Parker Jr.  
Mrs. Eugenia A. Ekridge  
Ms. Marie Womack  
Mrs. Eugene H. Neill  
Mrs. David P. Quinn  
Kim Womack  
Mr. & Mrs. Gaddis Womack  
Cooper Wood  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Buchanan  
Mrs. Bess Woodward  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Speake  
Mr. P.E. Wooten  
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Morrison  
Patricia Ann Henson Ward  
Mrs. Myra Simmons  
Mr. & Mrs. Benn Sullivan & Rachel  
Howard Wright  
Dorothy Wright  
Linda Wright  
Gully Yates  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Petty

Mrs. Katie Goudess  
Baptist Women, West Gulfport BC  
Mr. Robert S. Newton Jr.  
Wiggins Presbyterian Church  
Dr. Frank Pollard  
Mr. & Mrs. Braxton Crumpler  
Rev. and Mrs. Bob Storie  
Mrs. L.E. Green

### MEMORIALS

Mrs. Myrtle R. Abel  
Mr. & Mrs. Herbie Kirk  
Mrs. Myrtle Abel  
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Lee Boone  
Mrs. Sadie Adams  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford E. Trussell  
Rosa Anthony  
Mrs. Shirley Childs  
Retha Arrington  
Ora Baptist Church  
Emma Atkinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Morris McCaffrey  
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Atkinson  
Mr. and Mrs. Waymon Jones  
Mrs. Betty Aultman  
Ms. Ann Lott Denton  
Mary Lou Lott  
Ms. Kitty Taylor Ausborn  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Owen  
Mrs. Maggie Austin  
Mrs. Tommy R. Earls  
Mr. W.G. Avery  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. King  
Martha V. Rose & Clayton E. Bain  
Mrs. Clayton E. Bain  
Christie Lynn Barham  
Mr. & Mrs. J.L. Knight  
Steven David Bartholomew  
Mr. James W. Booser  
The Jack Hardage Family  
Mrs. Minnie Mae Barnett  
Mr. & Mrs. D.S. Bowering  
Mrs. Susie H. Barret  
Mr. & Mrs. Huey Townsend  
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Peaster Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Townsend Jr.  
Mrs. Virginia W. Bass  
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Henry Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Armstrong  
(to be continued)

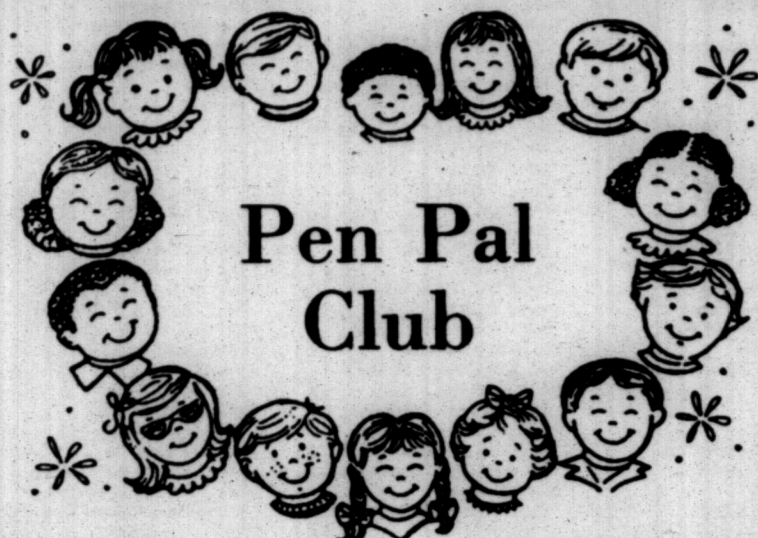
### Jan. 1, 1993 - Jan. 31, 1993 HONORS

The Staff Members of FBC,  
Cleveland  
Maxine Moore Sunday School,  
FBC Cleveland  
Dr. and Mrs. Lee Castle  
Mrs. W.W. Whitten  
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Chapman  
Mrs. Juanita Brown  
Bob and Bernice Crouch  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
Jonathan Ryan Hunt  
Mr. & Mrs. Azlee R. Hunter  
Mr. and Mrs. Terrell Malton  
Annette Herrington WMU,  
Calvary BC

George Wonsley (left) assists Village youth during their weight lifting class on the India Nunnery Campus. George, a former Mississippi State and NFL running back, volunteers his time at the India Nunnery Campus to instruct youth on the importance of physical fitness and also the use of proper techniques when exercising. He also helps lead our aerobics class from time to time. He is currently a fitness counselor at Mississippi Baptist Medical Fitness Life Center. These are just a couple of the on-campus activities that are provided for BCV youth. Arts and Crafts include ceramics, jewelry making, shirt painting, and many other projects for staff and young people. Bob Catlett, Doug Duncan, and Jenni Little direct this program under the guidance of John Nowlin, Director of Staff/Child Development.







## Pen Pal Club

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Jill Brantley. I am 11 years old. My birthday is July 31. I'm a member of Russell Baptist Church in Meridian, Miss. My heart belongs to Jesus! My hobbies are softball, basketball, skating, swimming, and collecting trolls. I would like to have a pen pal, please. My address is:

Jill Brantley  
Rt. 10, Box 296  
Meridian, MS 39301

Jessica Blackledge  
Rt. 2, Box 704  
Laurel, MS 39440

Hi, my name is Dana Howell. I'm 15 years old. I enjoy reading my Bible and riding bikes. I attend Central Baptist Church in Brookhaven, Miss. I would like to be a part of the Pen Pal Club. I would like someone my age to be pen pals with, please. I need a friend.

Dana Howell  
228 Rogers Circle  
Brookhaven, MS 39601

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Lamar Cutts. I'm 15 years old. I'll be 16 April 5. My hobbies are reading, singing, and all kinds of music. I go to French Camp Academy High School. I'm in the 10th grade. If you would like more info., and you are a boy or girl aged 11-18, please write me at:

Lamar Cutts  
FCA c/o Taylor  
French Camp, MS 39745

Dear Pen Pal Club,

I would like to be a pen pal person. My name is Candice Holland. I am 11 years old. My hobbies are playing basketball, reading, math, and riding my bike. I like boys. I go to Indianola Academy. Please send me a picture of you if you can. I would like boys or girls to write me at:

Candice Holland  
108 Terrace Drive  
Indianola, MS 38751

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Jessica Blackledge. I go to Bethlehem Baptist Church. I am 9 years old. My hobbies are: jump-roping, cheering, watching CMT-Country Music Television. My dream is: to ride my neighbor's horse and to be a nurse when I grow up. I would like to have a pen pal. If you would like to write me, then send me a picture including a letter, send it to:

Dear Pen Pal Club,

My name is Erin Upton. I'm 10 and 1/2. I'm in the fourth grade. I go to County Line Baptist Church. I would like to have a pen pal. My hobbies are reading, swimming, skating, dancing, and stamp collecting. My address is:

Erin Upton  
P.O. Box 741  
Florence, MS 39073



**SPIRITUAL FITNESS** — Vidonia Smith reviews the Bible study she will teach during an aerobics class at First Baptist Church in Neuquen, Argentina. Smith, a Southern Baptist missionary from White Oak, Miss., leads the workout twice weekly as an evangelistic outreach for women in Neuquen. She and her husband, Steve, from Hattiesburg, came to the city in 1991 to help the church develop a sports ministry. See related article, page 1. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

## His placemat ministry offers daily guidelines for family life

By Ken Camp

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — Wes Allen believes every year should be "The Year of the Family." And Allen, a deacon at Hyde Park Church in Austin, has designed a practical guide to help families start that year any day of any month.

Allen took family life insights gained over 23 years of marriage, 19 years of parenting and a lifetime of Bible study, distilling them into 31 daily readings and printing them on a laminated placemat.

"Daily Guidelines to Strong and Happy Christian Families" packs biblically-based readings for each day of the month — plus five additional insights on families and discipleship — onto the front and back of a 13-inch by 17-inch

placemat.

Allen saw the placemat as a vehicle that could present deep truths in a concise way. It also would be a visible reminder at the dinner table of the need to gather for a daily family time of sharing and praying — a need Allen has come to recognize based on his own experiences.

Allen's love of family, faith in God, and belief in prayer all are graphically displayed on the "Daily Guidelines" placemat, which pictures Christ as the foundation of a solid home, prayer as filling the attic, and faith-building daily readings throughout the house.

Allen's "placemat ministry" captured national attention when it

was featured in Michael McManus' syndicated "Ethics and Religion" column.

The placemat currently is being sold in three Austin-area Christian bookstores and through three Christian counseling centers, including the center sponsored by Hyde Park Church.

"It seems to be very timely in relation to the 1993 Baptist General Convention of Texas emphasis on the 'Year of the Family,'" Allen said. "With every fiber of my being, I earnestly desire that God uses me and this little product to turn the family situation around — especially in the churches."

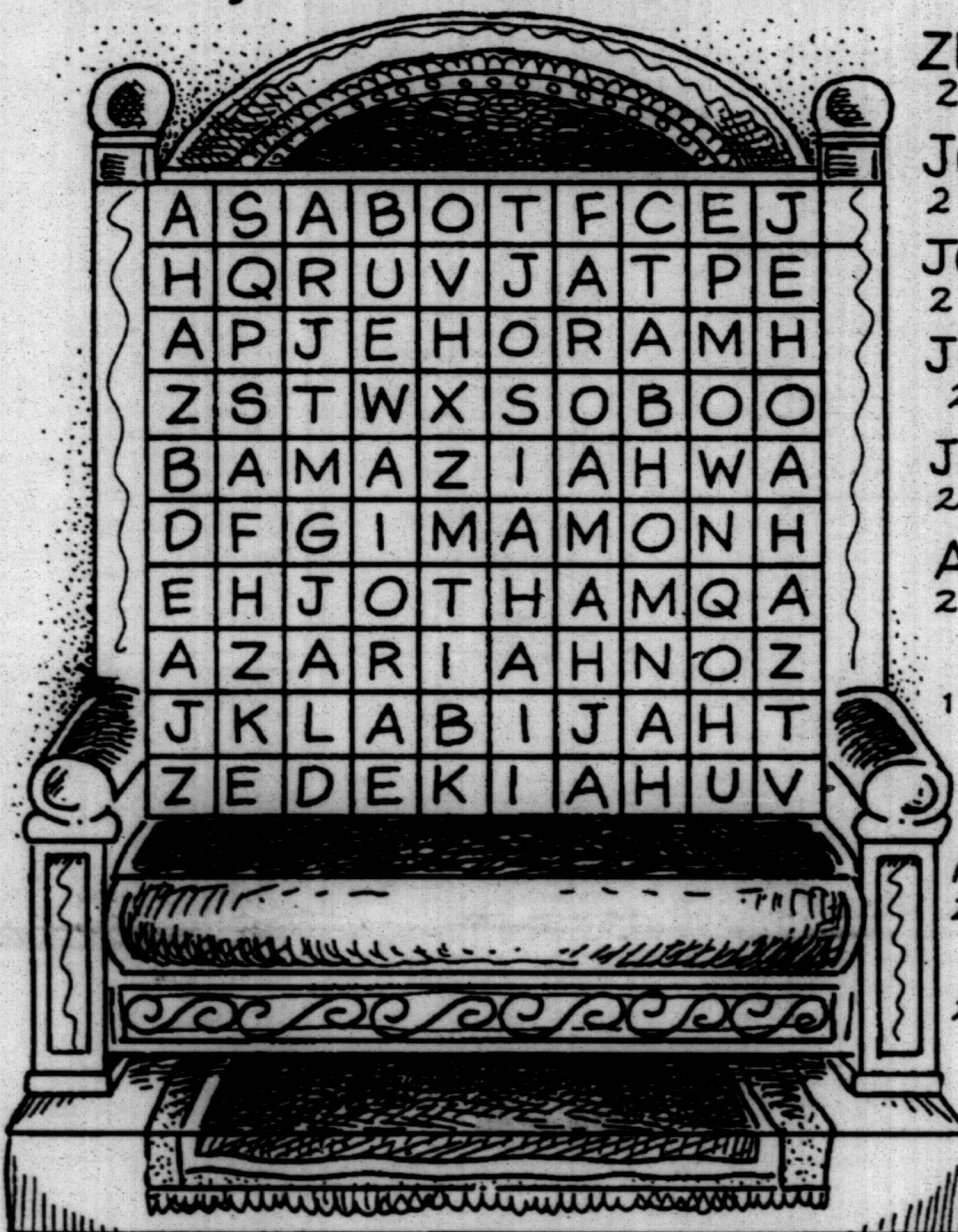
Camp is public relations director, Baptist General Convention of Texas.

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## KINGS WHO RULED JUDAH



There are 11 kings hidden in the puzzle. See if you can find all of them!



ZEDEKIAH  
2 KINGS 24:18

JOTHAM  
2 KINGS 15:32

JOSIAH  
2 KINGS 23:23

JEHORAM  
2 KINGS 8:16

JEHOAHAZ  
2 KINGS 23:31

AZARIAH  
2 KINGS 15:1

ASA  
1 KINGS 15:9

AMON  
2 KINGS 21:19

AMAZIAH  
2 KINGS 12:21

AHAZ  
2 KINGS 16:2

ABIJAH  
1 KINGS 15:1

Source: *Fun Stuff for Kids* by Michael Streff (Zondervan Publishing House, 1992)  
Available at your local bookstore or by calling 1-800-727-3480.

"...But the prayer of the upright is His delight." —  
Prov. 15:8

Baptist Record

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291  
005-DTM BAPT HISTORICAL SD 00  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL 401  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 37203  
NASHVILLE

Box 330, Jackson, MS 39205

March 4, 1993